



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 09-16-2009

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

Members Present: Lin Baker, Barbara Cutler, Kerrie Fallon, Susan James, Maureen St. Hilaire

Members Absent: Janice Dallas, Barbara Jones

Others Present: Jack Jones, Director of Housing & Disability Programs
Heidi Hample, Disability Advocate

Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2009:

Barbara Cutler made a motion seconded by Lin Baker to approve the Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2009. SO VOTED

Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2009:

Barbara Cutler made a motion seconded by Lin Baker to approve the Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2009. SO VOTED

Census Count 2010:

Jack Jones said that the U.S. Census Questionnaire would be mailed out in March 2010 with a replacement questionnaire mailed out in early April 2010 to households that do not respond to the initial U.S. Census. Census workers also will visit households that do not return census questionnaires. Jack Jones said that each year, the federal government allocates more than \$300 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data. Census data guide local decision-makers on where to build new roads, hospitals, child-care and senior citizen centers, schools, etc. In addition business's use census data to locate facilities. Jack Jones said that the 2010 U.S. Census will have only 10 questions and will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Jack Jones said that the Town of Arlington is one of only a few communities in the State to date that has established a Census Count Committee. The purpose of this committee is to outreach to groups within the community that in the past has had a lower than average census return rate. The return rate for Arlington in the 2000 U.S. Census was estimated at 82%, which placed the Town of Arlington well above the average return rate. One of the populations that the Town has targeted for outreach is disabled residents. The Census Count Committee is requesting advice from the Commission on Disability as to any suggestions on how best to reach out to Arlington's disabled population regarding the importance of completing the U.S. Census.

Town Day 2009:

Jack Jones said that Town Day 2009 would be held on September 26, 2009. Maureen St. Hilaire, Susan James, and Kerrie Fallon

said that they would spend time at the Commission on Disability both on Town Day. Commission Members provided ideas for articles to be included in the eleventh annual edition of Arlington Access.

Commission Membership:

Jack Jones said that a Town Meeting Member has expressed strong interest in serving on the Commission. Jack Jones also said that John Bean, Director of Public Works has been appointed by the Town Manager to fill the town official position that became vacant on the Commission by the retirement of Kevin O'Brien. Commission Members acknowledged the work and dedication of Kevin O'Brien as a member of the Commission and expressed their appreciation for the Town Manager's decision to appoint John Bean. The Commission was also grateful for John Bean's willingness to accept his appointment to serve on the Commission. Jack Jones said that John Bean expressed to himself that he viewed the Commission as a noble organization with a very worthy mission.

Discussion Regarding Sidewalk Seating at Arlington Restaurants:

Kerrie Fallon expressed concern about the width of the path of travel along sidewalks where restaurants have provided seating. The Commission agreed that restaurants with sidewalk seating needed to be monitored to ensure that a 36" clear path of travel is maintained.

Curb Cut Ramp Project:

Jack Jones said that approximately \$70,000 of CDBG funds has been spent during August 2009 to install curb cut ramps along Broadway and Warren Street. Jack Jones said that two additional curb cut ramps would be installed this fall at Raleigh Street and Tufts Street with a curb cut ramp installation planned for in front of the assisted living building in Arlington Heights. Jack Jones said that a CDBG balance of approximately \$88,000 would remain to be expended on installing curb cut ramps along Lake Street and other possible locations during the spring of 2010.

Other Business:

Porta Potties

Joe Connelly, Director of Recreation, said that the Arlington Soccer Club placed seven porta potties this summer in Town Playfields. After these porta potties were installed the Recreation Department became aware that these porta potties were not accessible to all residents. The Recreation Commission has agreed that in the future if user groups install porta potties that at least one at each location must be accessible.

Invitations

George Donahue, Chairperson of the Watertown Commission on Disability, has been invited and has agreed to attend the October Arlington Commission Meeting.

Kerrie Fallon suggested that Carol Kowalski, Arlington's recently hired Planning Director, be invited to the October Arlington Commission Meeting.

Commission Budget

Barbara Cutler said that the Commission would need to discuss how the \$3,000 Commission on Disability Budget would be expended. Jack Jones said that to date the Commission has expended \$240 for pens used as a promotional item in addition to the cost of printing the annual newsletter.

Adjournment:

The Meeting adjourned at 4:55 P.M.